

SEPTEMBER_____1975

AT THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

Dates & Times: Matinee, 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 10

Evenings, 8:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, September 10-11

Place: May Treat Morrison Auditorium

Subject: "THE ASCENT OF MAN: "Lower Than The Angels" (Film #1)

The September meetings will be an introduction to thirteen outstanding one-hour films, praised widely when presented on television, but even more stunning when seen on a large screen. We have chosen our monthly meetings to launch what will be twelve consecutive Saturday showings of the entire series in our Morrison Auditorium (see details following).

The films were written and narrated by the late Dr. Jacob Bronowski, British scientist and philosopher who, for a decade, was a resident fellow of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, La Jolla, California. In the past he had written and narrated many programs for British television that explored the world of science in a manner that an average viewer could enjoy and understand.

Each segment deals with a special area of science. New techniques are used and they include many "firsts" never before seen such as filming inside the secret archives of the Vatican; Genghis Khan's direct descendants riding in full battle array; and the emigration of Bakhtiari tribes through the Zagros Mountains of Persia.

The initial film, "Lower Than the Angels", is concerned with anatomy and intellect and observes man's rise to superiority among animals. It includes fascinating x-ray and slow motion photography of an Olympic athlete in action and the complex interweaving of mind and body.

Three showings as usual and your membership card admits you through the main en-

trance, Cowell Hall. At the matinee performance you may be asked to present it once again at the auditorium entrance.

"THE ASCENT OF MAN"

Twelve consecutive Saturday showings of these unique films. One afternoon performance at 2:30 and an evening performance at eight beginning September 20. There will be no charge for anyone beyond museum admission which, of course, is free to all Academy members. Herewith, a list of dates and subjects:

- Sept. 20: **The Harvest of Seasons**
(Agriculture)
- Sept. 27: **The Grain in the Stone**
(Architecture)
- Oct. 4: **The Hidden Structure**
(Chemistry)
- Oct. 11: **Music of the Spheres**
(Mathematics)
- Oct. 18: **The Starry Messenger**
(Astronomy)
- Oct. 25: **The Majestic Clockwork**
(Physics)
- Nov. 1: **The Drive for Power**
(Industrial Revolution)
- Nov. 8: **The Ladder of Creation**
(Theory of Evolution)
- Nov. 15: **World Within World**
(Atomic Energy)
- Nov. 22: **Knowledge or Certainty**
(Science and Humanism)
- Nov. 29: **Generation Upon Generation**
(Genetics)
- Dec. 6: **The Long Childhood**
(The Future)

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"OF MAN AND THE STARS" begins on September 6. Centuries of curiosity and exploration of the heavens have never satisfied man as he continues to seek further and further into the mysteries of space. Performances daily at two with two evening shows (Wednesday/Thursday) at eight. Extra matinees at 3:30 on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

"LASERIUM", the dazzling cosmic laser light concert is presented on weekends. Performances Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 4:45, 7:30 and 9:00, with a late performance Friday and Saturday at 10:30.

Admission is \$2.50 for all 4:45 shows and \$2.75 for all others. Tickets are available in advance through Bay Area Seating Service outlets (Discount Record stores, Pacific Stereo stores, and Montgomery Ward). Any tickets remaining go on sale at the planetarium box-office one-half hour before show time. Telephone 835-3849 for further information.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

"THE GENIUS OF BENIAMINO BUFANO", a one-man show devoted to this late, great San Francisco artist — continues in Lovell White Hall and surrounding areas through the end of the year.

"SKYLAB" continues in Hohfeld Gallery.

"CETACEA" (marine mammals) continues in Cowell Hall.

NEW PERMANENT EXHIBIT

"AFRICAN ORIGINS OF MAN", a new addition to Simson African Hall features a giant jigsaw puzzle wall and a forty-foot mural in color; impressive, imaginative, informative, and well worth an early visit to the Academy.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF MONTHLY ACADEMY MEETINGS

October 8-9, November 12 (Open House),
December 10-11

News and Notes

Each passing month finds something new being added to ever-accelerating activities of the Academy and September is no exception. The Docent Council, after months of preparation and aided and abetted by numerous brains around the Academy, is the proud and happy recipient of a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts which has made possible the purchase and outfitting of a Dodge B-300 Maxi-van that will take "Project Outreach" to various schools and other groups in the Bay Area where it will introduce the Academy and its many activities to persons who might not otherwise be aware. All this

has been encouraged under the NEA program titled *Wider Availability of Museums* and it is a real coup for our docents that the CAS was available to qualify.

As it has, for many reasons, become more and more difficult to bring school children to the Academy, "Project Outreach" will take some of the museum experience to the classroom and other locations to the benefit of everyone concerned. It basically is an introduction to the Academy. The program, centering upon those areas in which the Docent Council offer guided tours, will be highly diversified and able to change quickly at a needed or propitious time. The whole idea has been enthusiastically endorsed by San Francisco and Bay Area schools. A list of all the persons involved in the final success of this venture is too extensive for the confines of the NEWSLETTER, so it is zounds and huzzahs for everyone concerned.

June 30, the end of the fiscal year, saw some rather remarkable figures coming out of Morrison Planetarium, real record breakers, and certainly worthy of your attention. For the year 1974-1975, there were over a *quarter of a million* (258,499) paid admissions to the Theater of the Stars which included some 84,000 to the box-office hit, the light, color, sound spectacular called "Lasarium" (still playing and don't miss it). With 11,725 free admissions to Morrison, it brings the total for the year up to 270,224 persons who have enjoyed the sort of magic that only a planetarium and its star projector can create and a record in Morrison's history. Congratulations are in order for Capt. Robert Risser, Supervisor, and his efficient, creative staff.

TRAVEL NOTES

Barranca de Cobre - Oct 25. - Nov. 2, 1975

Los Mochis to Chihuahua, Mexico. Spectacular scenery of the Sierra Madre and the Barranca de Cobre, the grand canyon of Mexico, is the focus of this 9-day excursion on a railroad engineers said couldn't be built. Participants will visit Tarahumara Indian country, a tribe which still maintains its ancient rites, laws and customs. Included is a cruise around Topolobampo Bay and visits to its primitive islands. Nights will be spent at hotels at Los Mochis and Creel and in Pullman accommoda-

tions on the train. Cost: \$270 plus airfare. Call Gulliver's Travel (415) 346-4400 for itineraries and information on connecting transportation.

Stanislaus River Rafting - Sept. 6 - 7, 1975

As you read this there may still be openings on this popular rafting trip. Call the Travel Office at 221-4214 if interested.

ADULT EDUCATION

Fall semester classes begin this month. A dozen interesting courses are offered up for your enjoyment, ranging from a one-day mushroom hunt to lessons in celestial navigation. Call the Education Office if you did not receive your brochure.

TO ALL FELLOWS OF THE ACADEMY:

The annual Fellows Banquet has been scheduled for Thursday evening, October 2 and invitations have been posted as of late August. If you have not received your invitation for one reason or another, please check with the Development Office at 221-5100, Extension 63.



After forty years of devoted dedication to the Academy, Dr. Robert T. Orr, Associate Director of the Academy, retired — according to the records — on September 1. However, any form of the word “retire” has nothing to do with his energy and enthusiasm and that will be enlarged in a later paragraph.

Dr. Orr, a native San Franciscan, received his B.S. degree from the University of San Francisco, and both his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from U.C. Berkeley. To list all of his teaching and advisory capacities over the years with many institutions is much too extensive for the limits of the NEWSLETTER. However, for our purposes, he was Assistant Curator, Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy, CAS, 1936-1943; Associate Curator, 1944; Curator, 1945, to present, and Associate Director, 1964 to present. His list of memberships in both national and international organizations is impressively lengthy. He is the author of over 200 scientific and popular articles and of a number of successful books.

He has been the prime mover in the evolution of the Docent Council, given hundreds

of hours of instruction to the various classes, and has been a mainstay in the group's growing reputation. Along with this, he has conducted numerous Academy tours around the globe, and will be doing just that — to Africa — about the time this is being read. On his return, in October, he will be instructing and supervising the autumn course for a new group of tyro docents.

Dr. Orr retire? Forget it. This is probably only the beginning of a different sort of career that will be as exciting and as fruitful as all that has gone before.

MEET THE STAFF



DIANE BUTLER, Secretary-Coordinator of the Docent Council, was a Charter Member in the first Docent Training Course that occurred in autumn 1969; continued for three years, as an active touring docent and served on the Administrative Committee as editor of the docent newsletter TOURISMS. She assumed her present part-time position in June of 1972 and her diverse duties that include reservations for school groups (13,000 enjoyed tour guide service during the past year), and acting as the liaison link between the docent program and the Academy staff. To say the least, she is a very busy lady, what with “riding herd” on 98 enthusiastic docents.

Her younger life was spent in the East Bay where she went from nursery school through the 12th grade with the same group of youngsters in the Piedmont school system. She enrolled in San Francisco State, intending to pursue courses in the natural sciences, but romance in the person of her husband Rex changed several plans and they were married

in 1954. The ensuing five years found her in the marts of trade as an insurance clerk but the imminent arrival of a son Erik (now 17) altered that. A daughter, Sharon (now 14), followed three years later. As well as thoroughly enjoying the role of housewife and mother, Diane has always been active in various civic and community affairs. A 12-year-old, 20-pound cat named “PG” rounds out the San Bruno household.

The Butlers are avid campers and travel whenever possible to the Pacific Northwest. They particularly love the natural beauty, history and the people of that area. They also share an interest in oenology, photography, music and automobiles.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

REGULAR MEMBERS

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| Miss Mary Helfrich | Mr. Ray N. Young |
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